

REIMYO CAT-777/KAP-777

Pre-amplifier, Power amplifiers



Kazuo Kiuchi

The local Hi-End audio market (especially for the tube amplifiers) is always monopolize by the Western countries brands, so even Japan which has the geographic advantage position, is also hard to have a good market share. However, in these recent 30 years of Hi-End history, one Japanese Hi-End manufacturer, have been working very hard. At the beginning, they produced only the effective tuning devices, and nowadays they make big amplifiers. All of their products are based on the design to be really practical with remarkable sound effect so as to win the recognition of the audiophiles all over the world. This Japanese company is "COMBAK CORPORATION".

HARMONIX

COMBAK CORPORATION was founded by Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi in about 20 years ago. Mr. Kiuchi is an expert in tuning musical instruments. He is responsible for the research and development of all these effective tuning devices. If you are non-forgetful, you will surely remember the

HARMONIX “Gold particles” in the early 90s. This set of “Gold particles”, consists more than ten little pieces, to be used to stick on the wall in the listening room (it could also be used to stick on the audio components) so as to improve the room acoustic and enhance the performance of your Hi-Fi system. However, at that time, the industry was not matured for everyone to accept this “magical” stuff, at last in dubious, which made it famous. Nowadays, the knowledge of Hi-Fi in general has been improved and this kind of tuning device is no longer a mystery. This fact has proven that Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi is the pioneer profession with good knowledge and experience in the hi-end audio industry.



HARMONIX, a specialist in the tuning devices and cables, today has developed a wide range of different products including the LP record clamps, tuning feet, cables rings etc. In addition to these small accessories, they also offer a big Hi-Fi rack, as well as a various series of tuning

cables. Although HARMONIX 's product range has been expanded a lot, Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi still hold his faith to work carefully and slowly so as to produce the best. If he is not 100% sure, he will not launch the new product. To keep his promise, he will “disappear” for 2-3 months in each year, to source the great suitable materials (especially those beautiful but effective rare wood), so as to produce those excellent and effective tuning devices.



In fact, Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi has successfully fulfilled his ideas and faith through the HARMONIX products, he also participates in professional recording work. By re-mastering the CD software with his tuning devices and cables, so as to let more audiophiles to share his success; for example, the famous JVC XRCD24 is one of the project with his participant.

REIMYO

Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi is not only a tuning master, he is also a serious audiophile. Besides he spent his time in the research and development of the new effective HARMONIX tuning devices, he

has also developed a new series of audio components under the brand name of REIMYO. REIMYO in Japanese means “Miracle”. With this name, it means the sound performance of the products would reach to a very high level. Recently, he has introduced a new range of electronic components, including the CD transport CDT-777, D/A Decoder DAP-999EX, Pre-amplifier CAT-777MKII, Tube Power amplifier PAT-777, as well as the AC Line Stabilizer ALS-777 MKII. Among the most, the high light is the new CAT-777MKII.

First of all, the cosmetic design of CAT-777MKII is quite cool, and its big and impressive chassis is totally different from those tube pre- amplifiers utilizing the 12AU7 tube. Moreover, the inside is even much greater. The inside of the CAT-777MKII is in symmetry structure. Both left and right channels of the amplifier circuits are individually placed inside the two separated inner chassis. Both of the circuitry design is totally symmetry, and equipped with the JJ ECC82 and ECC802s tubes each one piece. The middle part is the power supply that occupies half of the chassis of the CAT-777MKII. The power supply has also adopted the symmetrical design, each channel has its own R Core electric transformer, and one PHILIPS 6x4 bile for the rectifier. Then connecting with the filtering capacitor, the resistors which individually equipped for the left and right channel independently.

With regard to the sound performance, our Editor, YK Chan, has made his comment on the CAT-777MKII that “....the superior sound performance of this preamplifier has won my heart.





When I switched it on to play the music, its rich musical flavor and the strong musical feeling is so touching as if it moved a tough stone to nod its head..... In the past, I had listened to many different very expensive European made and American made Vacuum Tube preamplifiers, I could say that only 2 to 3 sets of those preamplifiers would have the similar level of sonic performance as the CAT-777MKII. However, their prices are much higher than this REIMYO CAT-777MKII. Therefore, I found the price of the CAT-777MKII is very reasonable, or I could even say that it is “cheap”!

Thus, in our award of “ the king of the 12AU7 Pre-amplifier”, the CAT-777MKII really deserved for the crown. Lately, Mr. Kazuo Kiuchi has introduced another new electronic component, which is a solid-state power amplifier namely KAP-777 to match with the CAT-777MKII. Although the KAP-777 has just launched in the market recently, many audiophiles have limited knowledge about it. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to listen to this great amplifier system. Judging from the excellent sonic performance of the CAT-777MKII, Mr. Kiuchi built this KAP-777 under the same principle, will REIMYO again in the victory? We are so much looking forward to listening to it. It was really amazing! In order to keep this system longer at our

listening room, we are going to report the details of our listening experience of the KAP-777 Amplifier in our next issue.

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